

The Multi-use Trails Coalition

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April 29, 2008

Dear Mayor Blum, Santa Barbara City Council, and Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

As a local trail organization we are most genuinely concerned with the care of our local trails and looking out for all trail users best interests. We feel the Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force is as well and we are giving them our full support in backing their management recommendations. Being lifelong trail users ourselves and having attended every trail meeting in the past two years we have a good understanding of what the Task Force hopes to accomplish and we are ready to help out in any way we can. We understand that to bring these recommendations to life will take a lot of work and we are prepared to help with our organizational skills and volunteer work.

Formed in 2006, The Multi-use Trails Coalition primary concern was that access on the trails remains equal for all user groups. Since our inception we have organized hundreds of trail users to attend and to speak at Task Force hearings. We also started a petition with over 1300 signatures to keep trail access equal, and a webpage with 18 businesses and groups who have the same goal. Our website is also an information page for the hundreds of people who visit our site every month. The site contains information on trail use conduct, volunteer opportunities on the trails, and research on user group environmental impacts.

We have attached two documents, a survey we spent 80+ hours conducting/processing in 2007 and a fact sheet about mountain biking in the United States. We would be glad to answer any questions you had for us and look forward to improving our local trails with your help.

For the MTC Board of Directors,

Sincerely,

David Everett

Multi-use Trails Coalition Board Member

CC: Santa Barbara City Council
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Front Country Trails Task Force
City Parks and Recreation Department
County Park Department
Los Padres National Forest

The Multi-use Trails Coalition

Santa Barbara Trails Survey

Trails Surveyed: Tunnel Trail, Cold Spgs Trail, San Ysidro Trail, Romero Trail

Total Number of Trail Users Surveyed: 365

Four to Six Days Were Spent at Each Trail Head

Trail Users Were Surveyed as They Exited the Trail

**Main Reason for This Survey: Last Survey Was Conducted in 1989,
Also to Gain User Group Demographics and Opinions**

Spring 2007

SANTA BARBARA TRAILS SURVEY

Tunnel/Jesusita, Cold Springs, San Ysidro, Romero Trail, Santa Barbara, CA _____ 2007

1. Today I....hiked/ran biked horsed(circle one)
2. Rate your trail experience today: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1=worst, 10=best, please circle one

3. What could have made it better?

4. How often do you use the front country trails? (check one)
_ More than once a week
_ Once a week
_ Couple of times a month
_ Couple of times a year
_ This is my first time (you may skip down to the "name" line)
5. How many years have you used local trails?_____

6. When I use the trails I like to: hike/run bike horse(circle all that apply)

The following question pertains to all of your experiences on the SB front country trails, answer only those that apply and circle only one answer per line. You may leave comments about each category below.

7. Rate your overall experience with the following user groups on the trails :
- Hikers : Positive Neutral Negative

-Cyclists : Positive Neutral Negative

- Horses : Positive Neutral Negative

Comments :

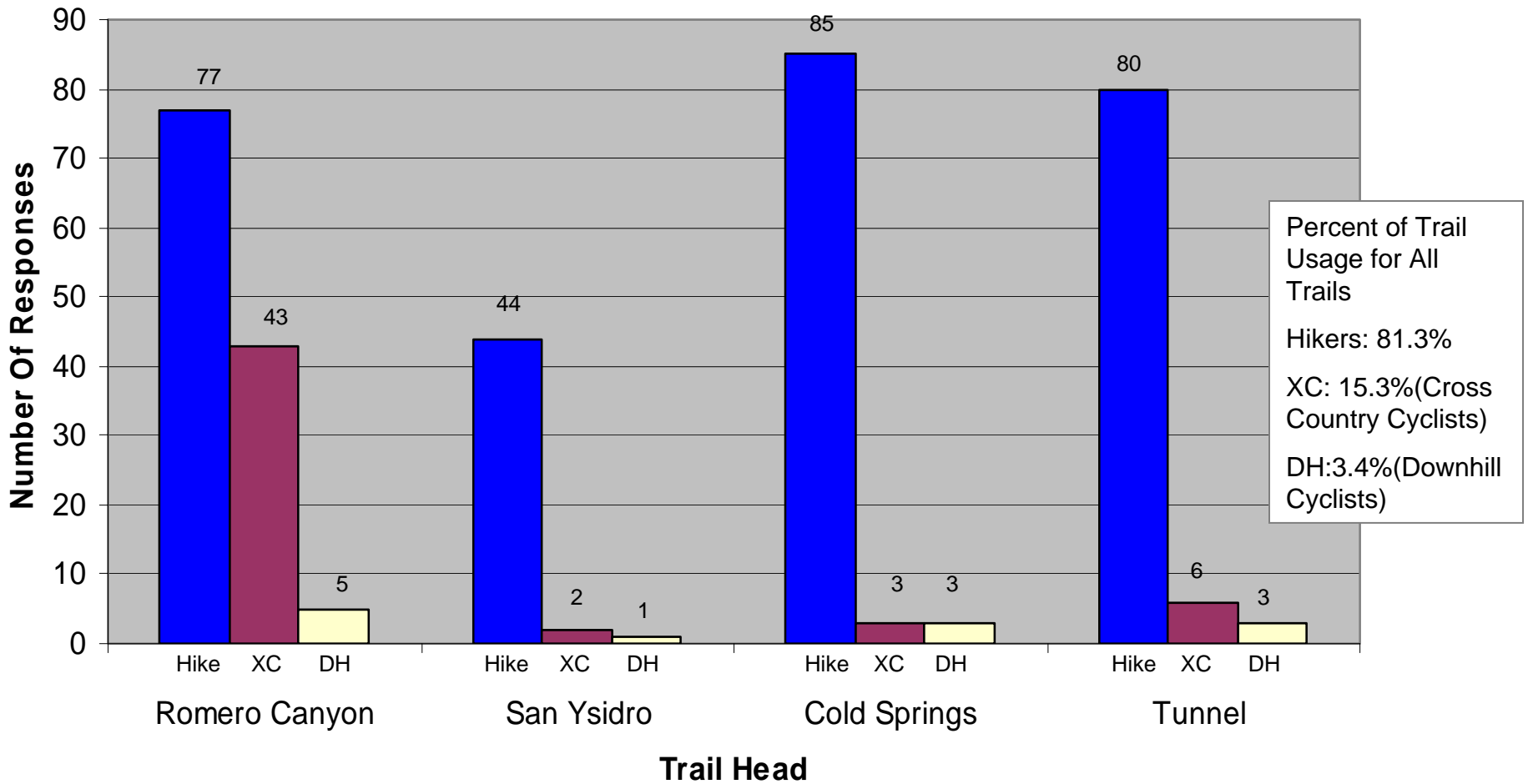
Name

Age

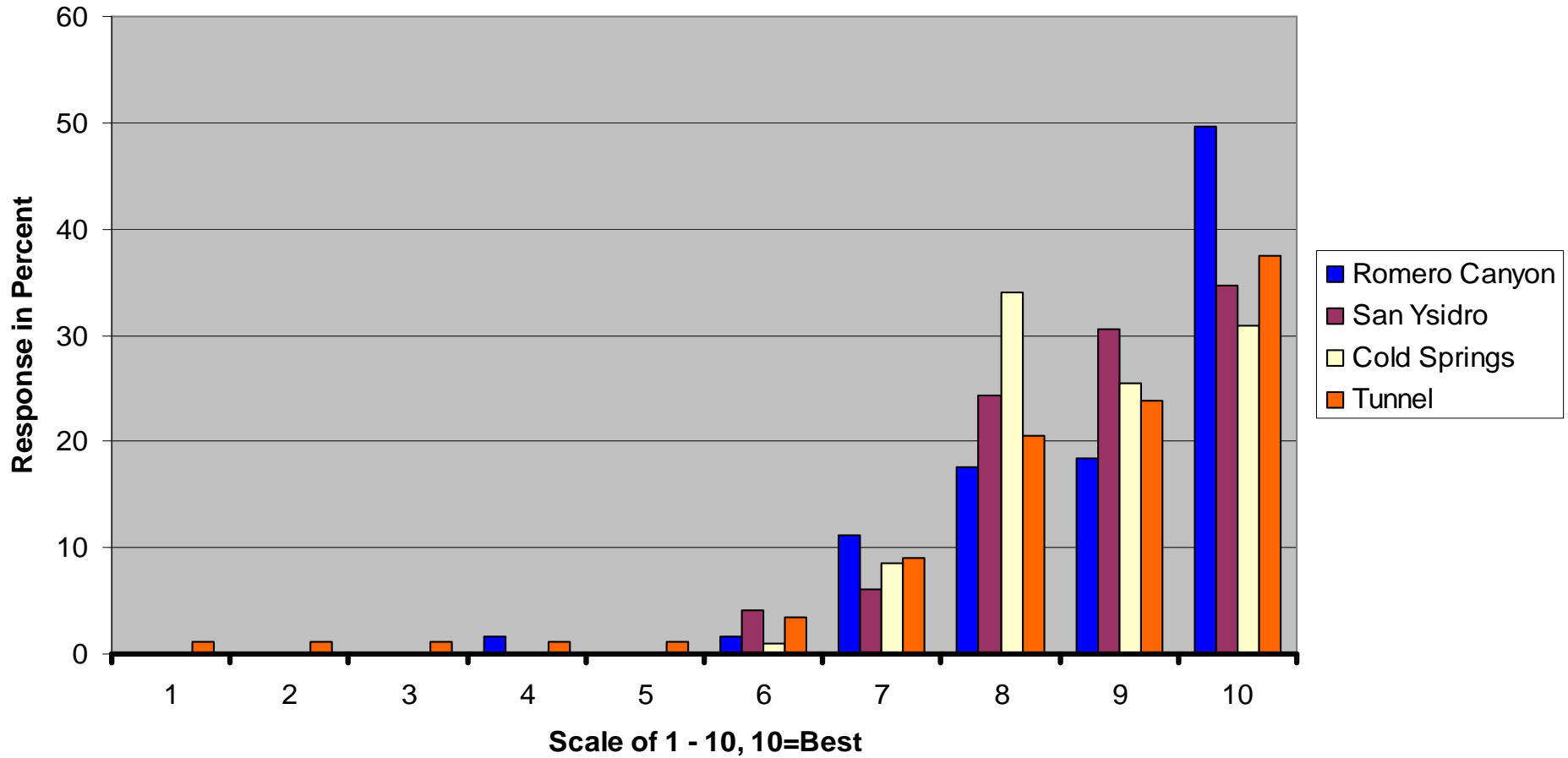
Phone(for verification purposes only- no solicitations)

Thank you for your time in taking this survey. This information will be used to make positive changes to the trails making them more enjoyable for all.

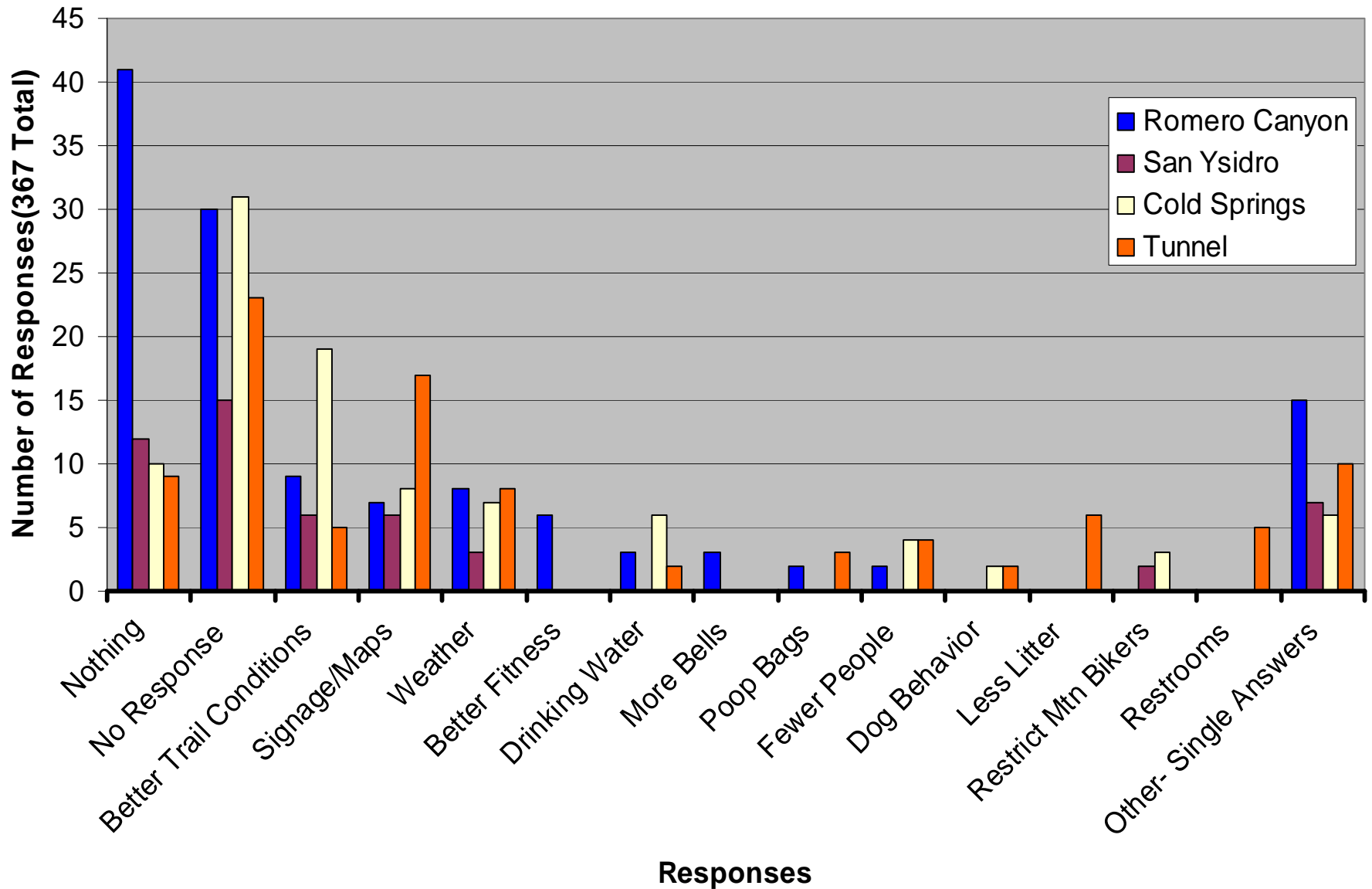
1. Type Of User Group Surveyed



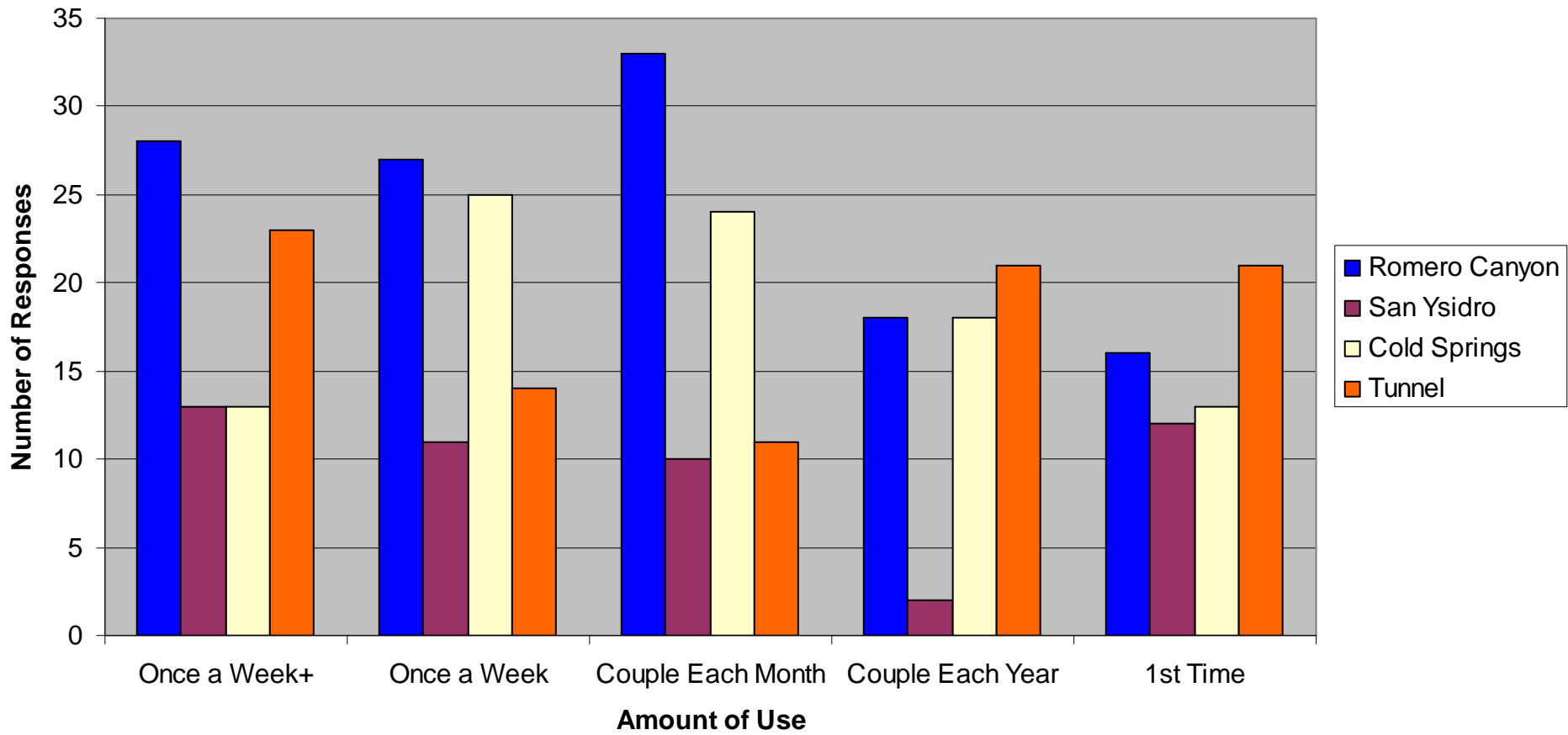
2. Rate Your Trail Experience Today



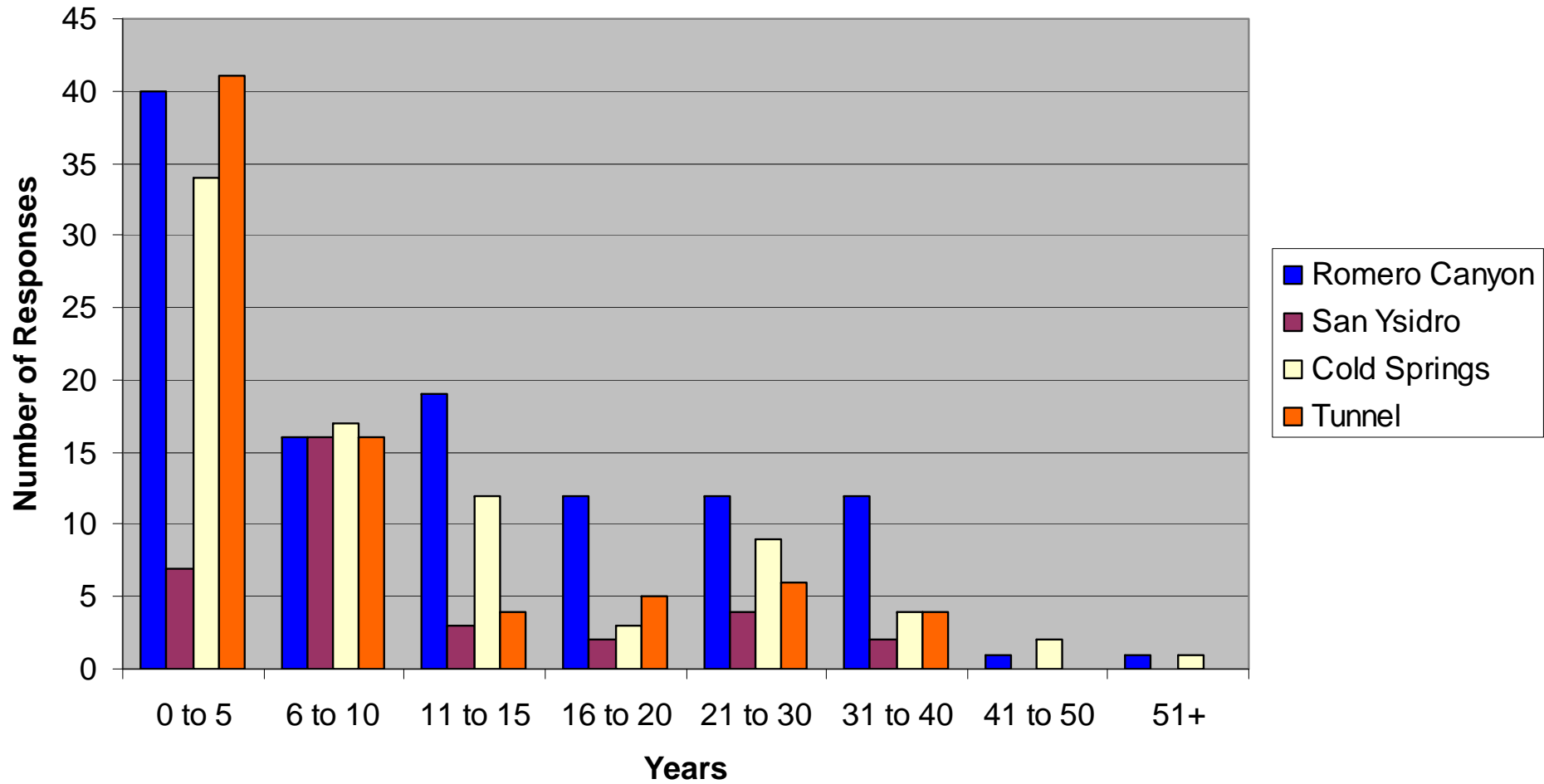
3. What Could Have Made It Better



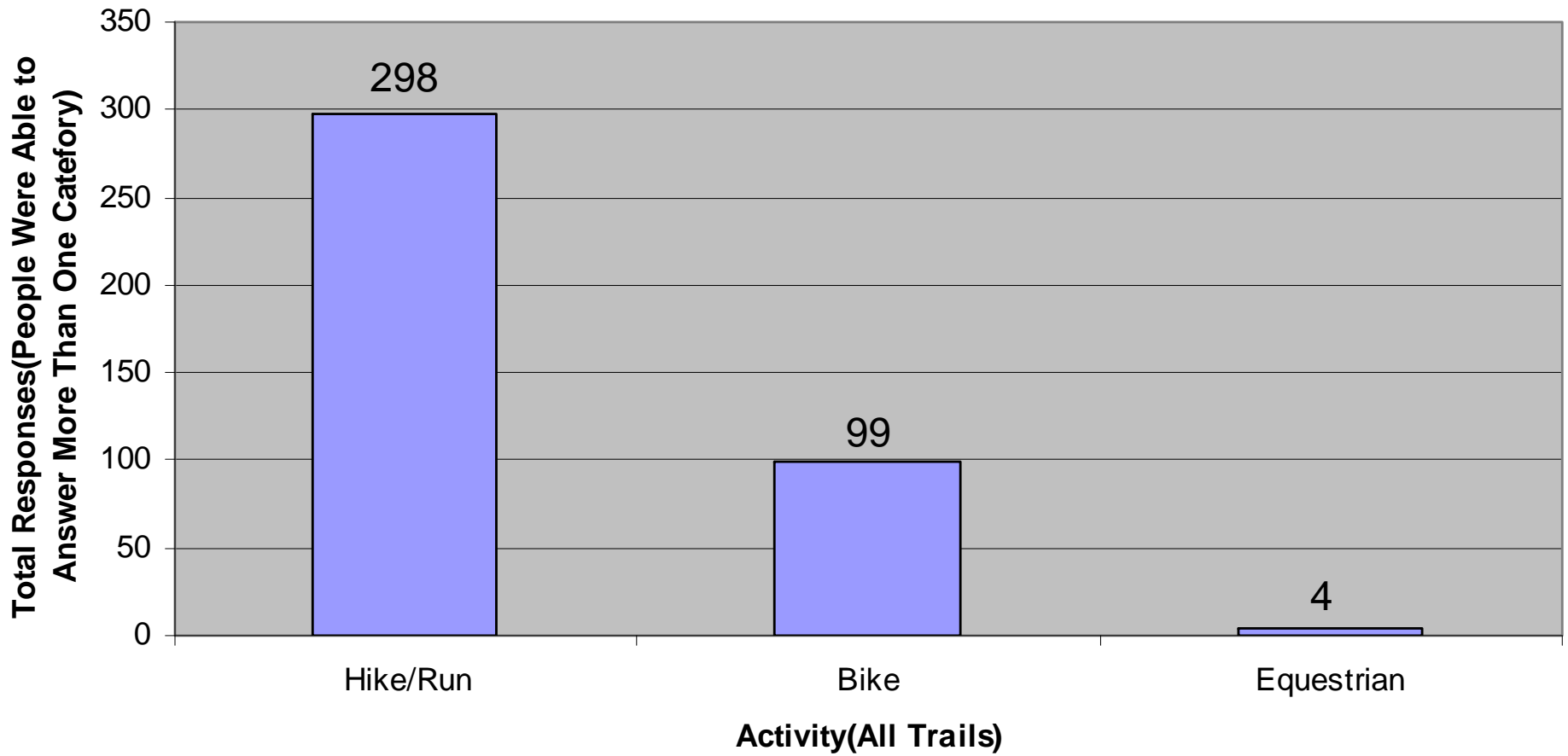
4. How Often Do You Use The Front Country Trails?



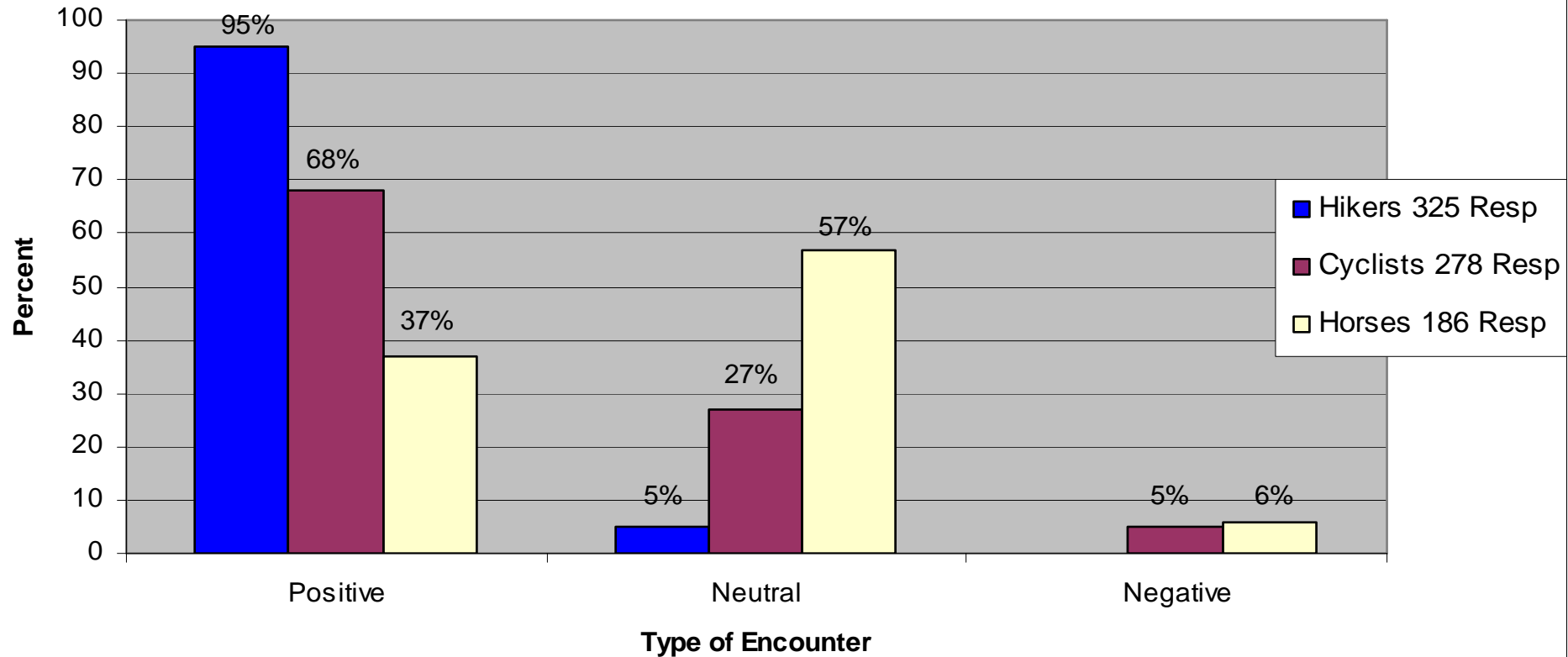
5. How Many Years Have You Used The Local Trails?



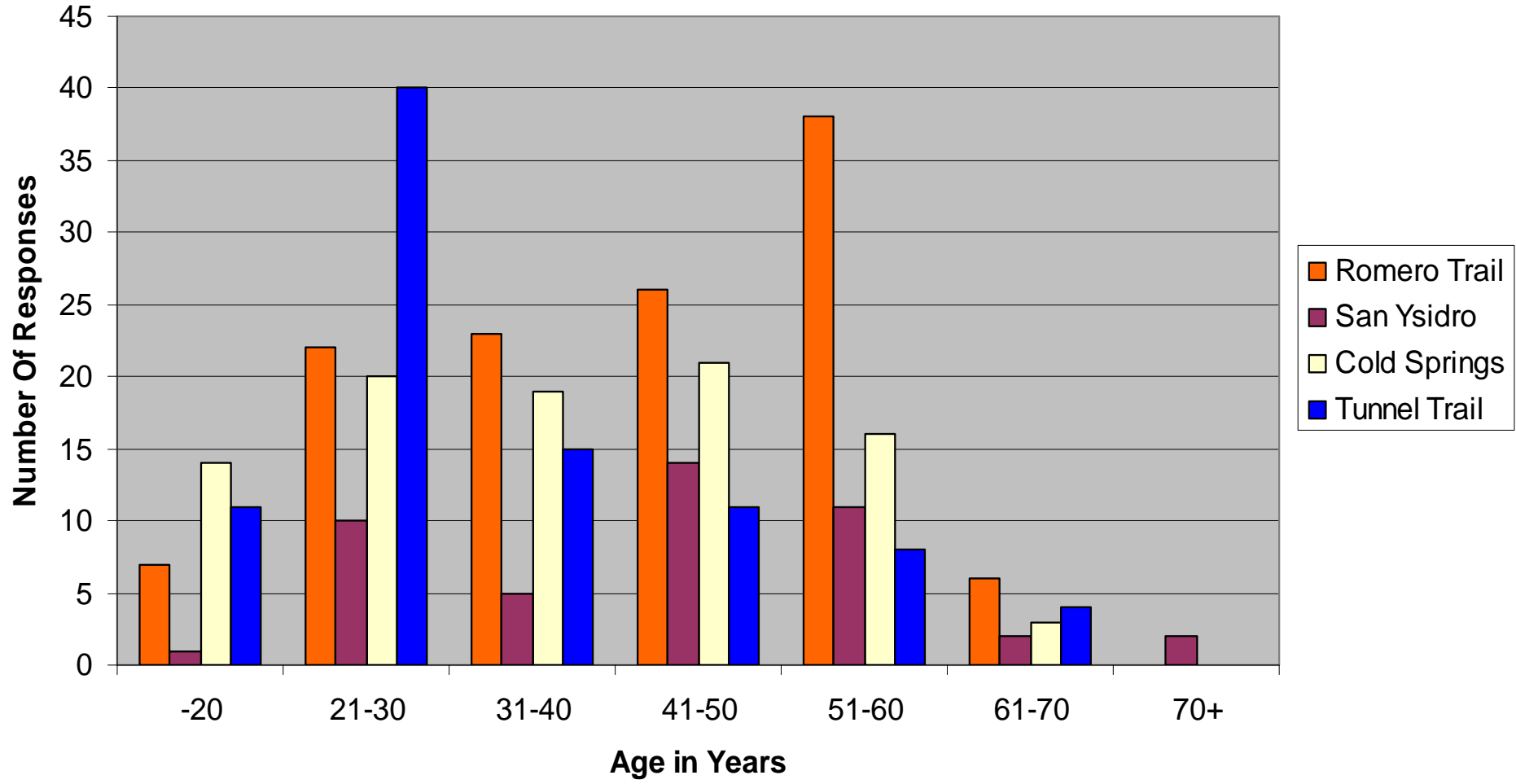
6. When I Use The Trails I Like To:



7. Overall Experience With Other User Groups For All Trails

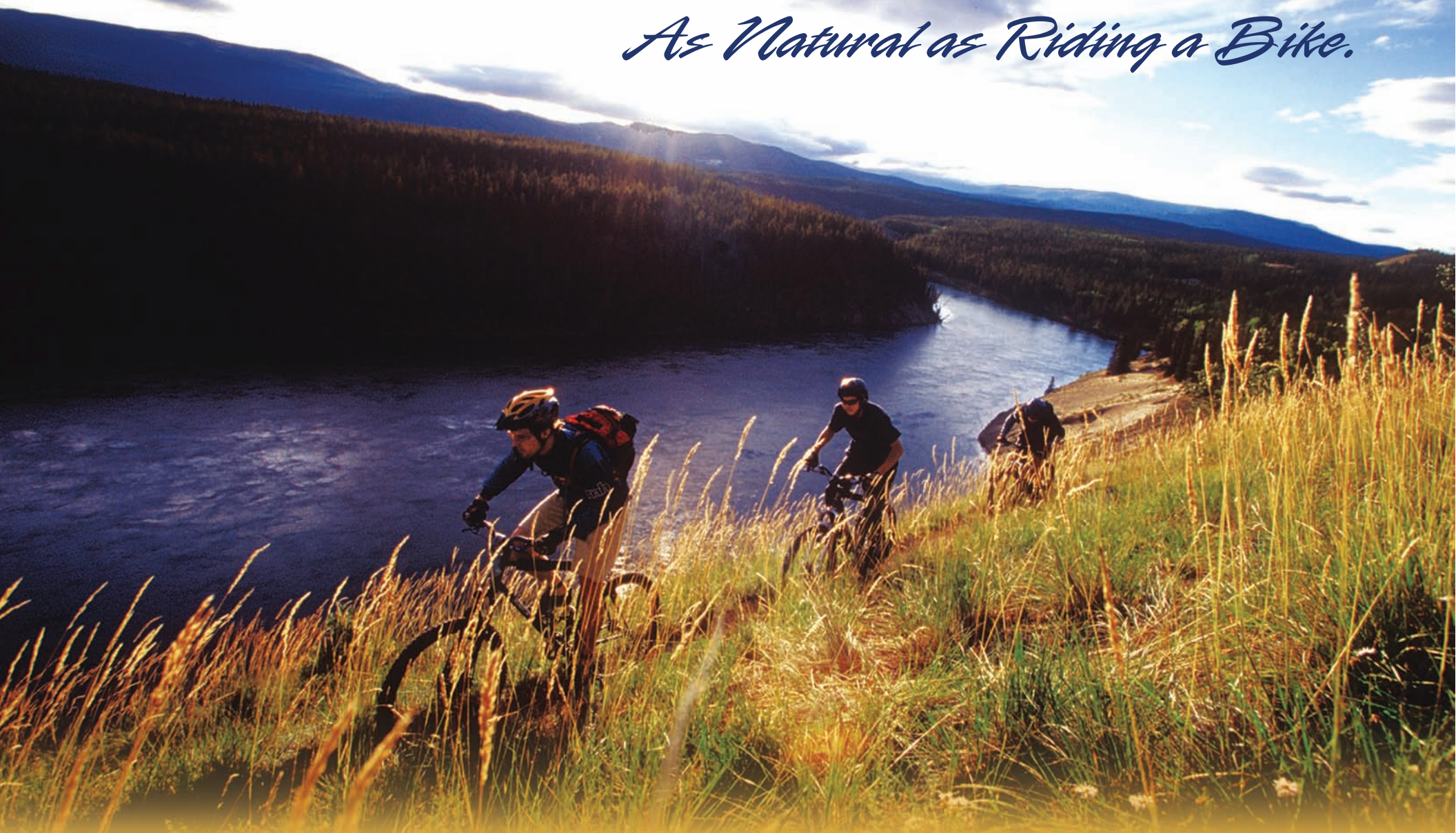


Age Of Trail Users



OUTDOOR FREEDOM

As Natural as Riding a Bike.



THE ECONOMICS & BENEFITS OF

Mountain Biking...

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO RIDE A *Bike*?

Be inspired...

Mountain biking is a fun, healthy, environmentally friendly way to experience our natural world while challenging the body and mind.

All natural...

Riding on natural surfaces is the unifying element for all 6 types of mountain biking.

MORE THAN *1 in 5* AMERICANS
16 AND OVER *Mountain Bike*.



☀ By number of outings, **biking** is the favorite outdoor activity of American kids age 6-17.
(Outdoor Industry Foundation)



☀ Like fishing and camping, cycling is an activity that **strongly affects a kid's decision** to become active in outdoor recreation.



50 MILLION AMERICANS age 16 and over enjoy the freedom of riding a mountain bike.



50 MILLION... that's more than **5 times** the total number of Americans employed as physicians, surgeons, registered nurses, teachers, lawyers and legislators combined!



There are **more mountain bikers** than golfers in America. In fact, there are **1 1/2 times more** – **50 million bikers** to 29 million golfers.

29 Million

according to NGF (2006)

Bikers

OVER BIRDERS

The **same number of people** (16+) mountain bike as watch or feed birds.

50 Million

(2004)

**NEIGHBORS
TO THE
North**

America has **50 million** mountain bikers - more than **1 1/3 times** the total population of Canada.

32.8 Million

(2006)

RECOGNIZE THEIR *Vote!*

The voting strength of mountain bikers is more than **1 1/3 times** the voting strength of Americans 65 and over.

36.7 Million

(2005)



Mountain Biking PUMPS

\$26 Billion INTO THE AMERICAN ECONOMY
IN DIRECT EXPENDITURES ALONE, BENEFITING RETAIL SALES,
SERVICES AND TOURISM-RELATED INDUSTRIES LOCALLY,
REGIONALLY AND NATIONALLY.

Trails VS SPACE TRAVEL

\$26 billion is **more than 1 1/2 times** the actual total discretionary budget authority for NASA.

\$16.1 Billion

(2005)



INVESTING IN MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS
HAS A **DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT** ON
LOCAL & NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES

- The Great Allegheny Passage in Pennsylvania - **\$14 million** annual revenue while half finished
- The Mineral Belt Trail in Colorado - **19% increase in sales tax revenues**
- Mineral Wells to Weatherford Rail-Trail near Dallas, Texas - annual revenue of **\$2 million**

☀ Bike trails in the Moab, Utah area produce a consumer surplus value of between **\$197** and **\$205** per trip, and the annual value of the trails is between **\$8.4** and **\$8.7 million**.

☀ Visits to National Forest Service lands primarily for mountain biking generated **\$205 million** in 2005, 3/4 of that year's National Forest Service budget for Forest and Rangeland Research.

HOW MUCH IS \$26 BILLION?

Mountain Biking... Spinning the Wheel of Tourism

- Sport/adventure tourism is the fastest growing sector in the tourism industry. About half of American adults have taken an adventure travel vacation in the past 5 years.
- Mountain biking is one of the top ranked adventure activities.
- Hundreds of local, state and national downhill, cross country and endurance events attract thousands of participants and spectators. By providing excellent facilities, small centers nation wide can establish themselves as mountain bike destinations, expanding their local economies.





Conservation & Sustainable Use

Mountain bikers are dedicated conservationists who volunteer their time, labor and money to protect the natural and cultural resources where they ride.

When building new routes or maintaining existing trails, ongoing efforts to minimize environmental impacts and preserve open space are central themes. Examples include adopting trail designs which eliminate soil erosion, avoid sensitive habitat and archeological areas and protect streams and wetlands.

As responsible recreational users of public lands, mountain bikers partner with professional land managers nationwide to locate trails in approved areas where potential conflicts with other users are minimized. Research shows that when trails are properly planned and designed, mountain bikes have no more impact on the natural environment than hiking, and far less than many other recreational uses.

Successful examples of environmentally sustainable mountain bike trails that are safe, fun to ride and shared with other trail users exist in every area of the country, thanks to conservation minded volunteers.

An International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) member survey showed that their network provided more than 750,000 hours of volunteer stewardship in the U.S. annually, valued at over \$13 million.



SPEAK



BUILD



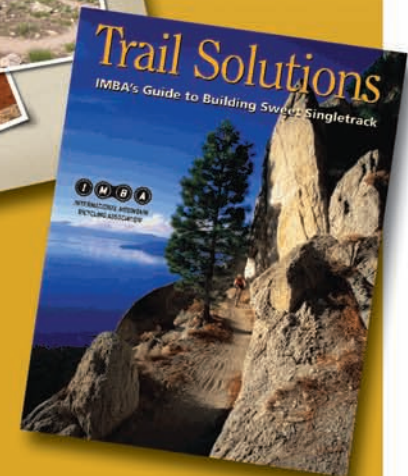
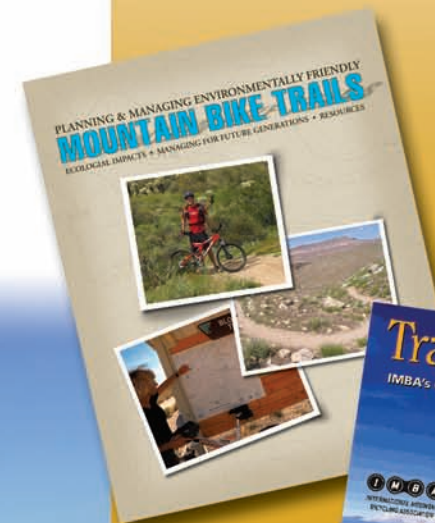
RESPECT



RIDE

IMBA'S 10 RESPONSIBLE RIDING TIPS

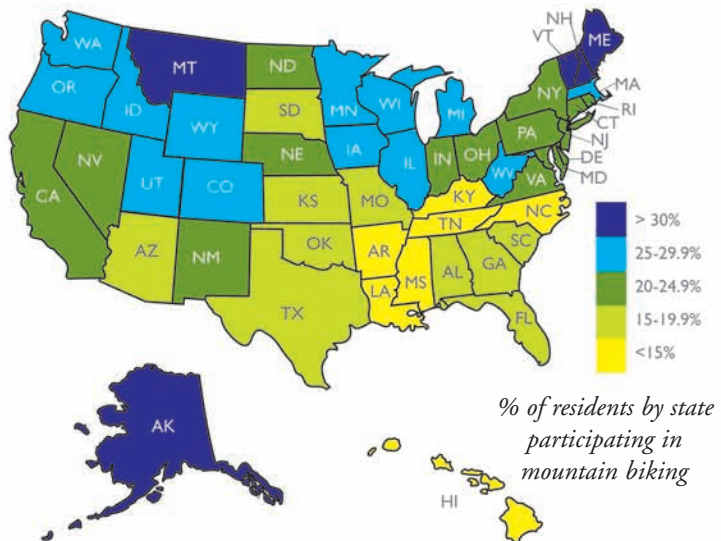
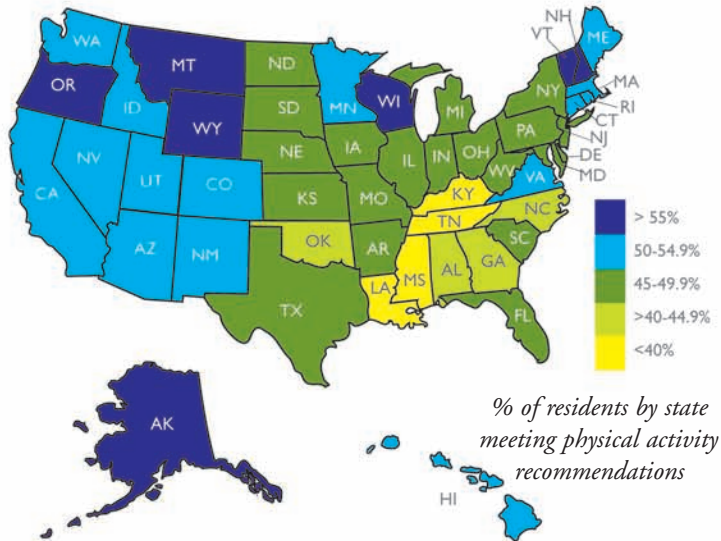
1. Be Prepared
2. Don't Ride on Closed Trails
3. Say No to Mud
4. Respect the Trail, Wildlife and Environment
5. Stay on the Trail
6. Ride Slowly on Crowded Trails
7. Pass With Courtesy and Care
8. Share the Trail With Other Trail Users
9. Don't Do Unauthorized Trail Work
10. Get Involved



Naturally Healthy...

MOUNTAIN BIKING IS PART OF THE MIX OF ACTIVITIES THAT CAN HELP KEEP PEOPLE HEALTHY.

States with high percentages of mountain bikers generally have high percentages of residents who are physically active.



Only 7 states in the U.S. (OR, MT, WY, WI, AK, VT & NH) have over 55% of people meeting physical activity recommendations, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

DID YOU KNOW...

- Cardiovascular disease affects **70 million** adults in the U.S. and costs the economy over **\$400 billion** each year...and it's growing.
- **Over 30%** of American adults are obese to the point it may pose a serious health risk.
- Physical activity is one of public health's "best buys." It can cut in **half** the risk of developing coronary heart disease, and cut the risk of developing hypertension by almost a **third**. What type of activity does WHO (World Health Organization) recommend? **Walking and cycling!**
- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that increasing regular moderate physical activity among the more than **88 million** inactive Americans over age 15 might reduce the annual national direct medical costs by as much as **\$76.6 billion dollars**.
- One recent cost-benefit analysis concluded that every **\$1 investment** in trails led to almost **\$3 in direct medical benefit**.



**INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN
BICYCLING ASSOCIATION**

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5/5/08

Santa Barbara City Council
Santa Barbara, CA 93102

Chair
James Childress

Vice-Chair
Fran Farina

Secretary
Ed Easton

Treasurer
Virginia Turner

At Large
**Robert
Bernstein**

At Large
Tony Biegen

At Large
**Stephen
Dougherty**

At Large
Lynn Kirst

Dear Mayor Blum and City Council Members:

The Santa Barbara Group of the Sierra Club strongly supports the recommendations put before you by the Santa Barbara Front Country Trails Task Force. We urge you to support these recommendations for the reasons discussed below.

The Santa Barbara Group has been deeply involved in working to bring active management to the front country trails for many years. The front country trails (FCT) are urban trails which are probably the most heavily used public park land in the county in terms of numbers of users. They are an essential part of life in Santa Barbara for many of us. Yet the trails have never been actively managed and trail maintenance has varied widely depending upon the resources available at any time. At present the condition of major parts of these trails is disastrously poor.

The proposed recommendations would set the foundations for creating a unified management structure for the FCT and for bringing additional resources to their management and maintenance. This would go far towards addressing the Sierra Club's primary issues of safety on the trails and conservation of resources on the land through which the trails pass. We are very encouraged by the proposed recommendations and strongly support them.

The Santa Barbara Group of the Sierra Club leads about 200 hikes a year on FCT and has many members who use these trails on their own. We have long been concerned about the condition of the trails and the lack of management of their use. The result of this neglect has been the creation of many safety problems on these trails, their dramatic degradation and significant damage to the biological communities around the trails.

Virtually every other community in California with comparable trail systems has developed a unified approach to the management and maintenance of their trail systems. This sort of approach can lead to vastly improved conditions on the trails, and a substantial reduction in the liability of local governments for what happens on those trails. Such a unified approach has in many places also served to bring increased resources from a variety of sources, not just local governments, to bear on solving trail problems and increasing trail systems.

Santa Barbara has been blessed with a number of volunteer organizations which have spent many years caring for the trails in their own ways in addition to the periodic attention given by the Forest Service. The weakness of this patchwork is clear when one hikes the trails regularly. Volunteer organizations cannot, by themselves provide the long-term planning, management, and care which is needed for the trails.

We urge you to accept the Task Force recommendations and thus take a first step toward a unified approach to the Santa Barbara Front Country Trails.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "J. J. Childress". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "C".

James J. Childress
Chair

Santa Barbara Group of the Los Padres Chapter of the Sierra Club



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Forest
Service**

**Los Padres
National Forest**

**Supervisor's Office
6755 Hollister Ave., Suite 150
Goleta, CA 93117
(805) 968-6640
TDD: (805) 968-6790**

File Code: 1350-3/1560

Date: May 2, 2008

Honorable Marty Blum
Mayor of Santa Barbara
Chair, Santa Barbara City Council
735 Anacapa St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Mayor Blum:

This letter is to advise the City Council that I have accepted and approved the "Final Management Recommendations for the Front Country Trails, Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force, February 2008."

The Task Force has done a commendable job in developing recommendations by which our Agencies can participate in improved management of our unique front country trails system. I am hopeful the Santa Barbara City Council and Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors will also accept these Recommendations.

If accepted by the City Council and Board of Supervisors, I have directed my Staff to initiate the drafting of an interagency (City/County/Forest Service) memorandum of understanding (MOU) described in the Recommendations. The MOU would establish the intent and expectations of the partnership between the City, County and Forest Service. This would be an important first step in implementing the approved recommendations.

Sincerely,

/s/ Peggy Hernandez
PEGGY HERNANDEZ
Forest Supervisor

cc: Salud Carbajal

